

## The Sun.

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## As to the Betting.

The betting on the election is a bad factor in the politics just now. On July 11 it was 4 to 1 on McKINLEY. Since then the odds have declined gradually, but day before yesterday they were at the enormous disproportion of 25 to 1. Such overweening confidence of success on one side is not justified. It is foolishness, and it tends to increase the chances of success for what is called the "short end," for the reason that it spreads the already too prevailing sense of surety which to-day threatens to paralyze the Republican vote.

The Democratic party is at the tremendous disadvantage of being the country to dedicate itself to repudiation, and to submit to rebellion against its authority—the plea which was made from the same source in the time of the Civil War. But there is in the Democracy a worship of the party name that doesn't concern itself with the actual issues of politics; and further than that, there is in Bryanism, the genius of rebellion against the existing peace of society, a passion which four years ago, when the splendid anti-repudiation uprising carried thousands of Democrats into the Republican camp, swelled the Democratic vote to a greater size than had ever before been known. What that vote may become next fall no one knows, notwithstanding some people are betting 25 to 1 that it will fall to elect its candidate.

The rational odds on McKINLEY are no more than 5 to 4, or less, say 10 to 9, and even these would be the other way unless there soon runs throughout the Republican party and the casual supporters of the principles that it stands for an understanding of the danger which is in Bryanism and a resolve to overcome it by the individual effort of every man. Wake up, all!

## Fallen, or Found Out?

If the New York Times's report of Mr. Bryan's speech delivered at Pawnee, Neb., on Wednesday is accurate, the Democratic candidate, so much paraded for his personal character, has sunk to falsification! Here is the evidence:

"The Republicans now openly espouse the gold standard. They declare for the gold standard. Philadelphia after they threw aboard a platform sponsored by the Administration that contained a promise for international bimetallism. They say they do not believe in the ratio of 16 to 1. When they make a statement they say Mr. McKINLEY is a Republican Administration is coming silver dollars to day at the ratio of 16 to 1. In the month of March the Republican Administration coined 4,000,000 silver dollars at the ratio of 16 to 1, and yet the Republicans claim that the ratio of 16 to 1 is not right. It is the ratio we have had for thirty-four years, and the Republican party to-day does not advocate any change in the ratio."

The phrase "16 to 1" cannot now be misunderstood. It means the 16 to 1 of the Kansas City platform, in other words, the free coinage of silver, without limiting its amount.

Now people believe that this Government, under a Republican Administration is to-day practicing that policy, and in that he is dishonest. We will give the facts which he distorts.

The Sherman Act of 1890 provided for the purchase by the Treasury of 4,500,000 ounces of silver every month and the coinage of it at the old rate of 16 to 1. Between this and free coinage there was of course a radical difference. Under this law, however, bullion was accumulated which remained in the Treasury uncoined. The act of 1893, passed under President Cleveland, stopped the purchase of silver and permitted only the coinage of the bullion then on hand. The act of 1896 provided for the monthly coinage of not less than 1,500,000 silver dollars, out of the bullion previously accumulated in the manner described until it should be exhausted; and that explains the coinage of the 4,000,000 dollars in March of which Mr. Bryan speaks.

The leasing of this silver money, intrinsically worth less than the gold dollar but more than the greenback, in no wise imperils the gold standard because its amount is limited. The 16 to 1 which Bryan stands for would sweep the gold standard out of existence and make silver the standard.

Mr. Bryan has had the reputation of being sincere in the advocacy of his hobby. In his use of 16 to 1 on the stump this year he is tricky. In plain words, at Pawnee Mr. Bryan lied.

## The Manila Bay Bounty-Money Decision.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the action brought by Admiral Dewey to determine the amount of prize money that should come to him and his officers and men for their victory in Manila Bay on May 1, 1898, was against him; that is, the court awarded a smaller sum of bounty money than he claimed. Only recently has the opinion of the Court been published, although its decision was known late in May last.

Associate Justice HARLAN delivered the opinion of the Court, which the reporter briefly thus:

"In determining whether vessels of the enemy sunk or destroyed were of inferior or superior force to the American vessels engaged in the battle, for the purpose of fixing the amount of bounty to be awarded under United States Revised Statutes, section 4535, the land batteries, mines and torpedoes controlled by those in charge of the enemy's vessels, but which supported those vessels, are to be excluded altogether from consideration, and the size and armaments of the vessels sunk or destroyed, together with the number of men upon them, are alone to be regarded."

The question at issue hinged on the right way to count the men engaged at Manila against our fleet. If the enemy's forces were less than ours, the bounty money under the section quoted would be \$100 for each of their men; if greater than ours, the bounty would be at the rate of \$200 a man. The Court considered the question whether on land and at sea the Spanish fleet was more numerous than the American fleet, and that though there were shore batteries and forts that

took part in the battle, they could not be counted in awarding bounty money. This decision diminishes by one-half the amount of the bounty money distributable to Dewey and his comrades of all ranks.

Chief Justice FULLER, with two Associate Justices, dissented. In the course of his dissenting opinion the Chief Justice says:

"The obvious object of the law was to encourage personal gallantry and enterprise. If the hostile force was equal or superior, the bounty was to be double what it would be if the enemy's force was inferior, because the hazards to the men were so much the greater."

"The Chief Justice, as a military achievement, of the Battle of Manila Bay, is that the American fleet, unaided by an army, attacked a force composed of ships supported by powerful shore defenses, and in defiance of these open and hidden dangers, in addition to the power of the enemy's fleet, sailed in and not only captured or destroyed all the opposing vessels, but captured or altered the shore batteries. To omit consideration of these circumstances in determining pecuniary reward under the statute seems to me altogether unreasonable, and yet this is what the Chief Justice does. He says that the shore batteries and submarine mines and torpedoes which our fleet was compelled to encounter should not be taken into account, though the bounty could not rise above the number of men engaged in the battle."

The Chief Justice continues: "It is my judgment that the intent plainly was that the entire opposing force should be compared, and after remarking that the words of the statute, if construed strictly, might be limited to engagements of single vessels on each side, asks pertinently: 'If a liberal construction be proper at all, why not altogether?' In ending his decision, Justice FULLER says: 'Undoubtedly it is our duty to give effect to the will of Congress, but in ascertaining its will the object Congress manifestly sought to attain must be recognized, and should be controlling, unless positively defeated by the language used in its act.'"

The law of 1884 under which a bounty was awarded has been repealed by the Personnel act of March 3, 1899, so that no case under the act can arise hereafter. As the weight of the Court is opposed to Admiral Dewey's claim, it is too much to hope that Congress may pass a special act declaring that it had meant all the time what the Admiral thought it had meant; but that would be an excellent way to square accounts, legally and morally, with the men who won Manila.

## David B. Hill Replies to Bryan on the Income Tax Issue.

Mr. BRYAN brought out the income tax issue again at Topeka. He reminded the Populists there assembled that it was only by cooperation with the Democratic party that they could hope to effect the imposition of this odious tax upon the thrift of the nation, or to overturn the Supreme Court at present constituted with a view to procuring a reversal of the decision that held the income tax unconstitutional.

The demand for an income tax and the attack on the Supreme Court are parts of the Bryan programme to-day as they were four years ago.

"We declare that it is the duty of Congress to use all the Constitutional power which remains after that decision of the Supreme Court in the Income Tax case, or which may come from its reversal by the Court as it may hereafter be constituted, so that the burden of taxation may be equally and impartially laid, to the end that we may all bear our proportion of the expenses of the Government."

Mr. BRYAN now asks:

"If belief in an income tax justified, a Populist in the Democratic party in 1896, what excuse can he find for aiding the Republican party now, when even the exigencies of war have not been sufficient to bring that party to the support of the income tax principle?"

This defiant flaunting of the income tax threat appears to be Mr. BRYAN's public reply to the reported private entreaties of the Hon. David B. Hill to keep the income tax out of his campaign.

We shall therefore allow Mr. Hill to make rejoinder in his own words.

The philosophy of the present campaign was outlined by the Hon. DAVID B. HILL in an article published in the *Forum* three months after the election of McKINLEY and the defeat of BRYAN in 1896. Mr. HILL undertook to tell his party why he had encountered disaster, and under what conditions it might hope to achieve victory in 1900. His remarkable dissertation and still more remarkable prophecies on that occasion should be circulated widely by Mr. HILL's committee, and by all who would be loyal to the cause of the silver standard. Mr. HILL is likely to deliver for BRYAN and STEVENSON and the Kansas City platform between now and November. Among other things Mr. HILL said, in February, 1897:

"Had reasonable judgment been exercised there ought to have been no difficulty in making the rest of the platform, aside from the silver plank, entirely acceptable to every Democrat and to all conservative citizens; but instead of this, passion, prejudice, selfishness and enmity seemed to rule the hour, while so many uneducated, crude and unsafe provisions were recklessly incorporated therein that the people became frightened, and the burden was twice as much as all these Democratic leaders have supported the ticket were needlessly alienated."

First and foremost among the terrifying and fatal prophecies of passion, selfishness, emotionalism, recklessness and crude prejudice, the Hon. DAVID B. HILL specified the demand for an income tax:

"First, The Income Tax. This tax had never before been approved in a Democratic platform, and had never been tolerated by the country, except as a temporary expedient in time of war. Yet the platform proposed to fasten it upon the nation in a time of profound peace as a part of its permanent fiscal policy. It was unjust, inequitable and sectional tax. It was a tax upon the property of the people, and upon the States according to their population, as required by the Constitution, cannot be levied at all. It was levied in many quarters as an indefensible measure of confiscation, preyed by the impudent or impetuous States, as against the thrifty, progressive and wealthy ones. It was urged by every political adventurer, ignorant and demagogic in the country. It was levied by the Democratic party of the same unscrupulous character concerning the alleged interests of the masses against the classes of which so much was heard in the recent campaign."

"The sectional character of the tax, and the motives for its enactment, to the detriment of the people, but cannot do so, owing to the fact that a bureau of the records in the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue show that while the whole country was levied twice as much as all these Democratic leaders have supported the ticket were needlessly alienated."

Second, The Attack on the Supreme Court. The platform criticizes the decision of that Court declaring the income tax law unconstitutional. If that were all it did, the plank might be overlooked or excused as simply a matter of bad taste, foolish and unnecessary, but unpatriotic. But it goes further and instead of acquiescing in the decision, it declares it to be the duty of Congress to use all the Constitutional power which remains after that decision of the Supreme Court, or which may come from its reversal by the Court as it may hereafter be constituted, so that the burden of taxation may be equally and impartially laid, to the end that we may all bear our proportion of the expenses of the Government."

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What does this extraordinary provision mean? What power has Congress under the Constitution over the Supreme Court, which it is thus declared to be its duty to exercise? Its power may be regarded as almost absolute—especially if it desires to arbitrarily or recklessly use its power. It is a power which would surely satisfy the people, but which may come from its reversal by the Court as it may hereafter be constituted, so that the burden of taxation may be equally and impartially laid, to the end that we may all bear our proportion of the expenses of the Government."

The second clause between the seventy-coaters Mineola and Yankee were the color of fault on the part of the Yankees. It is the duty of the Regatta Committee to decide the case on its merits and to have that decision stand.

The Kansas City Times says that workmen are in case BRYAN is elected.

At last the Hon. GAMALIEL BRADFORD is as happy as he is capable of being in a country which doesn't believe that the Maine was blown up from the bottom of the sea. He is a man of letters, and his audience suffer, but he is strong. He "enriches somewhat upon the time" of the other speakers. In fact, he wants it all. The Hell of War in the Tropics must cause him less pain than reflecting upon his hearers. But he is happy at last.

Porto Rico is as much a part of the United States territory as New Mexico, or Oklahoma, or Alaska.

If Porto Rico is as much a part of the United States as New Mexico, so are the Philippines. Why then rebel rebellion by trying to elect BRYAN President?

Travelers and astronomers inform us that in the southern heavens, near the Southern Cross, there is a vacant space which the uneducated call the hole in the sky where the eye of man, with the aid of the telescope, has been unable to discover nebula, or asteroid, planet, or star, or sun. In that dreary, cold dark region of space, which is only known to be less than infinite by the evidences of creation elsewhere, the Great Architect of the Universe has left a blank space in the firmament. In this earth were capable of the sentiments and emotions of justice and virtue, which in human mortal beings are the evidences and the pledge of our immortal destiny, it would be hard to find three with the energy of the elemental forces of nature and project this enemy of two races of men into that vast region, forever to exist in a cold, eternal silence, as the absence of life, emblematic of the fate of those who are the enemies of their kind.

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## "HOLE IN THE SKY" BOUTWELL.

Amusing Reminiscence of the Impachment Trial of Andrew Johnson.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Among the cranks and chronic kickers assembled at the Anti-Imperialist Convention at Indianapolis, there was only one who from his previous record seemed worthy of any consideration at the hands of Republicans. George S. Boutwell had formerly some title to the character of a leader in that party, having been a Republican member of Congress, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Secretary of the Treasury, and so forth. He retired from public life in 1877 and his record is little known to the younger men of this generation.

But all Republicans, whether young or old, will read with regret or amazement the following statements from his opening address at Indianapolis. I quote from a verbatim report:

When we entered the Philippines it was an additional menace to the Chinese Empire, and has led to the revolution in China and put the missionaries and Ambassadors in peril of their lives. Instead of being a fortunate circumstance, the fact that we were in the Philippines was the chief occasion of the revolution in China.

These allegations are so at variance with all known facts and presumptions, that I ask my candid countrymen if they can imagine a man capable of uttering such a statement in a public assembly, and his further remarks on a subject of consideration by reasonable men.

Such "wild and whirling words" at the advanced age of 82 might be attributed to senility, but it is not that. Boutwell exhibited himself as a monomaniac on the subject of the crimes of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States.

He was one of the managers on behalf of the House of Representatives in the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, and the following is a verbatim extract from his argument for the prosecution:

Travelers and astronomers inform us that in the southern heavens, near the Southern Cross, there is a vacant space which the uneducated call the hole in the sky where the eye of man, with the aid of the telescope, has been unable to discover nebula, or asteroid, planet, or star, or sun. In that dreary, cold dark region of space, which is only known to be less than infinite by the evidences of creation elsewhere, the Great Architect of the Universe has left a blank space in the firmament. In this earth were capable of the sentiments and emotions of justice and virtue, which in human mortal beings are the evidences and the pledge of our immortal destiny, it would be hard to find three with the energy of the elemental forces of nature and project this enemy of two races of men into that vast region, forever to exist in a cold, eternal silence, as the absence of life, emblematic of the fate of those who are the enemies of their kind.

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